The Chronicle and Index

OF THE UNITARIAN SOCIETY, BELFAST.

No. 2.] BELFAST, FEBRUARY 1st, 1881, [For Gratuitous Circulation.

OUR readers will be glad to know that it has been resolved to issue the *Chronicle and Index* monthly, at least for one year. We have reason to know that the first number has been welcomed with pleasure, and that its future issues are looked forward to with interest. We circulated a thousand copies of No. 1, and we hope to find a yet larger body of readers for No. 2.

It will be seen by a reference to other portions of our columns that, since our last issue, a considerable number of the Subscribers to the Society have paid their subscriptions. It will also be noticed that new Subscribers have been obtained, and that some of the old Subscribers have increased their subscriptions. This is very cheering, and it indicates the way in which our friends throughout the country can help the Committee to make the Society more largely useful. We should be greatly strengthened if every friend of the Society would try to interest some one else on its behalf, and add to our list of Subscribers. Any person can become a member of the Society on the payment of five shillings annually; but we hope that those who are able will send us a larger subscription. The larger our income the greater our means of usefulness.

We call special attention to our "Book Notices." This department of our Paper we wish to make very useful. We purpose from month to month to call attention to such books as we think it would be serviceable should be generally read. In the multiplicity of books published it is inevitable that some of the best will often be overlooked by the general reader. We wish to select a few at least that the readers of our Journal may have an opportunity of knowing what they are and how they can get them. In country districts it is very difficult to learn much about books at all. We purpose to supply the means of getting this information. Our Notices will direct attention to such Works only as it will be a great advantage to read and study. Miss Sarah Dickson, at the Depository, 33 Donegall Street, will supply any book promptly, at the prices indicated in the Notices.

A reference to the list of Vice-Presidents of the Society in our last issue will show that the Mayor of Belfast is one of the number. Mr. E. P. Cowan, who is a member of the Second Congregation, and has been connected with it all his life, is the first Liberal Mayor of Belfast for many years past, and, so far as we know, the first Unitarian who ever occupied that position. He entered upon his official position on the first day of the present year, and, on the following day, Sunday, he was in his own pew at church. He took the first possible opportunity, in his public capacity, to show his fidelity to the religious principles with which he has been all his life identified. It is surely a pleasant sign of the times that, in a Tory town council, and in an orthodox town like Belfast, a thoroughly pronounced Liberal and Unitarian should have been heartily and unanimously elected as Chief Magistrate. We have every confidence that Mr. Cowan will more than justify every hope created by his appointment.

We wish all our readers to know that any of the denominational newspapers and periodicals can be obtained at the Depository, and that they will be sent to any address—The *Inquirer*, 5d; the *Unitarian Herald*, 1d; the *Christian Life*, 2d weekly; the *Truthseeker*, 3d; the *Disciple*, 3d; the *Christian Freeman*, 1½d; *Free Religion*, 1d; *Young Days*, 1d monthly; and the *Modern Review*, 2/6 quarterly. A copy of the *Chronicle and Index* is sent gratuitously to every Subscriber, and will be sent free by post to any one applying for it, on payment of One Shilling per annum.

We are ready to supply parcels of tracts for distribution to any Minister or Layman applying personally at the Depository.

INTELLIGENCE.

THE *Sunday Evening Lectures* of the Rev. J. C. Street, in Second Church, Rosemary Street, Belfast, have unfortunately been interrupted by his illness. For two Sundays there was no Evening Service. On January 2nd a large audience gathered to hear a lecture on "Things which Cannot be Shaken," and the

subject "The Ruin of Souls," an address called forth by the speech of a local magistrate and sectarian, attracted a great assembly on the 23rd, though the night was one of the severest of the season.

ON Sunday, January 2nd, the Rev. J. C. Street devoted the Morning Service in his church to the young. It had been announced before-hand, and there was a very large gathering both of young and old on the occasion. The scholars of the Sunday School, the young members of all the families connected with the Congregation, and the children from Hopeton Street Schools swelled the numbers of those present. All seemed deeply interested. The usual liturgical service was laid aside, and a free service substituted. Beautiful hymns were sung, readings were given from various sacred scriptures, and a story read on "Charity the true Saintliness," after which Mr. Street delivered an address, which was listened to with earnest attention, on "True Knighthood." Though the service occupied a somewhat longer time than usual, no one seemed tired, and a general hope was expressed at its close, that many more such services would be held.

AS a means of affording instruction and amusement to the scholars of Hopeton Street Schools, with their parents, a series of week-evening concerts and readings was decided upon by the teachers; and the success attending the two gatherings which have been held, warrant the continuance of these pleasant entertainments, which will have a good effect in bringing all into closer relationship one with another, and tend to the good of this thickly populated neighbourhood.

The Annual Soiree and Distribution of Prizes took place on Thursday evening, January 13th, and was attended by about 80 children with a fair sprinkling of teachers and friends; amongst whom were Thos. M'Clelland, Esq., J.P., Chairman; James M. Darbishire, Esq., H. Hyndman, Esq., LL.B., Revs. H. Rylett and J. J. Wright, Messrs. Alex. Robb, Superintendent; W. C. Dobbin, Hon. Sec.; F. E. Dale, D. Thompson, S. H. Street, J. G. Dobbin, and a number of ladies. After an excellent tea had been partaken of, the Chairman called upon Mr. Thompson to give out the opening hymn—"Shall we gather at the River." The prizes, 21 in number, consisting of choice books, were distributed in happy style by Mr. Darbishire, and besides these, two special prizes were presented from the Rev. J. C. Street, for good conduct and regular attendance, to Miss Mary E. Russell and Master Wm. Taylor. Mr. Darbishire, in feeling terms, expressed the common regret of all at the unavoidable absence of Miss J. E. Bruce and the Rev. J. C. Street, the former being from home, and the latter suffering from severe illness. Addresses were given by Revs. J. J. Wright, H. Rylett, Messrs. Hugh Hyndman, J. M. Darbishire, and the Chairman. A recitation by Mr. Dale, and a song by Miss Petticrew, together with the hymn, "Dare to do right," formed part of the programme. Votes of thanks were passed with acclamation, and then came the delight of the evening, when the Christmas Tree was lit, and its heavily-laden branches stripped of their contents, which were highly appreciated by the children, who each received a box of sweets, an orange and bun at the door on leaving. At about 9-15 p.m. this interesting meeting was brought to a close, every one seeming to have enjoyed the evening's amusement.

ON Wednesday afternoon Jan. 19th, a conference of Sunday-school teachers and friends was held in the Comber Schoolroom, when the Rev. T. Dunkerley, B.A., read a paper on "Teachers' Preparation Classes." Friends from Belfast, Mountpottinger, and Moneyrea were present, and partook of an excellent tea, kindly provided by their Comber friends. Amongst those present were—Rev. T. Dunkerley, B.A. (Comber), Rev. J. J. Wright, (Mountpottinger), Mr. James Milling, (Comber), Rev. H. Rylett, (Moneyrea), Mr. Robert M'Calmont, Mr. James M'Williams, Mr. D. Thompson, (Belfast), Mrs. J. Andrews, Mrs. W. Pirrie, Mrs. Orr, Mrs. Thompson, Miss Barker, Miss M'Bratney, (Belfast), &c. The Rev. J. C. Street, was unavoidably absent through illness. After tea, the chair was taken by Mr. James M. Darbishire, president of the Unitarian Society. The Chairman assured the meeting with what great pleasure he, as a worker in Sunday-schools for a long period, stood there that evening. From their Sunday-schools were to come their future men and women. Sunday-schools he regarded as one of their most important institutions, and he was glad to say some of their own Sunday-schools throughout the North of Ireland were in a flourishing condition. He then called upon the Rev. Thomas

Dunkerley, B.A., to read his paper on "Teachers' Preparation Classes." Mr. Dunkerley proceeded with his paper, which we regret we cannot lay before our readers. Mr. Robert M'Calmont, superintendent of Mountpottinger Sunday-school, expressed the pleasure with which he had listened to the paper. On all subjects which Sunday-school teachers had to give instruction in, it would be a great gain could they co-operate in equipping each other for their work. Mr. Milling, superintendent of Comber Schools, felt that from that meeting he would gain very much good. Rev. H. Rylett thought there would be a difficulty in all the classes of one school taking the same lesson. Rev. J. J. Wright felt there was another kind of preparation needed—the preparation of the hearts of teachers. Mr. D. Thompson pointed out that if these preparation classes were instituted additional work would be thrown upon their ministers, whose hands were pretty full at present. The chairman, having made some appropriate remarks on the discussion, called on Mr. Dunkerley to close the debate. Mr. James M'Williams then moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Dunkerley for his admirable paper. Votes of thanks were also passed to the chairman for presiding, and also to the Comber friends for their kind hospitality. The Rev. Mr. Dunkerley closed the proceedings with prayer.

ON New Year's Eve the Children's Annual Festival, in connection with Second Rosemary Street Sunday School, was held in the Lecture Hall and School-rooms, which were profusely decorated for the occasion, with evergreens, flags, and bannerets. After an excellent tea had been served in the School-rooms, all present repaired to the Lecture Hall, where the children engaged in various games. A Turkish Bazaar, which was plentifully supplied with toys, ornaments, and other articles calculated to delight the children, had been erected in the Lecture Hall, and at half-past seven o'clock "a Turk," dressed in full oriental costume, appeared on the scene, and was greeted with loud applause. He bowed his acknowledgments, and at once proceeded to distribute the contents of the Bazaar amongst the children. A short time having been given for the examination of the gifts of the kind-hearted Turk, the children, with their teachers and friends, returned to the School-rooms, where a Lime-Light exhibition of places of interest in Italy, Egypt, Ireland, and America was given by Mr. Courtnay and Mr. M'Calmont. The Rev. James C. Street took the part of Lecturer, and as, in his travels, he had visited many of the places shown, his lecture was even more entertaining and instructive than was anticipated. During the exhibition several hymns were sung by the children. At the close of this part of the programme the assemblage returned to the Lecture Hall, where cakes and sweetmeats were partaken of. Games were again commenced by the children, the teachers assisting them in their amusements, and the elderly people looking on and enjoying the scene. At ten o'clock the proceedings were brought to a close by an address to the children, by the Rev. James C. Street, who, after alluding infeeling terms to Mr. E. A. Fuhr, the Superintendent of the Sunday School, who was unable to be present through illness, complimented the children on their conduct during the past year, and gave them some excellent advice as to how the coming year might be pleasantly and advantageously spent, and urged them in particular to obey their parents and teachers, to avoid all falsehood, and to love and prayerfully serve God.

Cheers having been given for Mr. Street, the Sunday School Teachers, and "the Turk," the meeting terminated, all who were present, both young and old, having felt that a most enjoyable and profitable evening had been spent. The Festival, in point of attendance and in every respect, was considered to be the most successful of any that have been hitherto held by Second Rosemary Street School.

A SHORT vacation having taken place at Christmas, the usual weekly meetings of the ROSEMARY STREET MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION were resumed on Monday evening, the 10th January. There was a large attendance of members and friends, and a varied programme of music and readings was effectively rendered. At the conclusion, the papers and periodicals provided for the Reading Room, for the year 1881, were auctioned as usual.

On the 17th January a lecture on "Martyrs" was delivered by Mr. Max Vietel. The lecturer, in the course of his thoughtful remarks, gave a comprehensive history of religious martyrdom in the past. The lecture was well received and frequently applauded, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Vietel was passed by acclamation.

At the usual meeting on the 24th January, Mr. F. D. F. O'Connor delivered an able discourse, entitled "Two Tragedies," being a description of the insurrection in Paris, immediately after the siege of 1871. An animated discussion on the subject followed.

BOOK NOTICES.

"*The Bible of To-day*," by JOHN W. CHADWICK, New York, 1879.

This is one of the noble books we owe to our American brethren. It is the substance of a course of Lectures delivered in 1877-8, and is published in a permanent form. It deserves to take its place among our Theological Classics. Fully abreast with the Scholarship of the age, and enriched by numerous references to all the great modern critics, it nevertheless takes a distinct position of its own and defines with care the principal results of the best historical criticism of the separate books of the Bible, and of their mutual relations. Many of the results will be astonishing to those who have been content to accept their opinions about the Bible from current teachings, but it will certainly help the careful reader to a better knowledge and fuller appreciation of a Literature which is transcendent in its influence upon the life and thought of the world.

It may be had at the Depository for 6/2.

"*The Light of Asia, or the Great Renunciation*," by EDWIN ARNOLD. *Fifth Edition.*

We are glad to see a cheap edition of this charming Poem. It tells in most exquisite English, and in most poetic form the story of Gautama, Prince of India and Founder of Buddhism. The life of the great Religious Teacher is told in language almost as sublime as that of the New Testament. It is a chapter of the world's history of exceeding richness, and shews how

> "God finds His teachers in every age and clime
> With revelations suited to their growth."

After the glowing story has been told, and the sweet, divine life of God's prophet made to live upon the immortal canvas the writer thus concludes:—

> "Ah! Blessed Lord! oh, high Deliverer!
> Forgive this feeble script, which doth thee wrong,
> Measuring with little wit Thy lofty love,
> Ah! Lover! Brother! Guide! Lamp of the Law!
> I take my refuge in thy Name and Thee;
> I take my refuge in thy Law of Good;
> I take my refuge in Thy Order! OM!
> The dew is on the Lotus! Rise great Sun!
> And lift my leaf and mix me with the wave.
> Om mani Padme Hum, the Sunrise comes!
> The Dew-drop slips into the shining sea!

May be had at the Depository for 2/-

"*Discourse on Matters Pertaining to Religion*," by THEODORE PARKER.

Few books ever produced so marked an influence upon the thought of an age as this. Learned, thorough, fearless, and brilliant it rose above the level of contemporary theological literature and stirred the hearts of men like a clear trumpet blast. Its scholarship was ripe; its method scientific; its daringness sublime; and its glow of style irresistibly attractive. It marked an era of thought in the nineteenth century—men felt that a Prophet had arisen—but he was a Prophet who, while stern and fearless in breaking down the evils of superstition, came with a message of Religion, sweet and gladsome as summer days. No one who takes up the book can lay it down until he has enriched both head and heart with its glowing messages. It has had a great circulation, and has done a great work, but it has a greater work yet to do. We commend its perusal to all our readers.

It may be had at the Depository for 1/6.

BOOKS.

SCOTCH SERMONS. MacMillan & Co. Published at 10/6. To be had at Depository for 8/-

THE STORY OF RELIGION IN ENGLAND. By Brooke Herford. Published at 5/-. To be had at Depository for 3/7.

TALKS ABOUT JESUS. By M. J. Savage, Boston, U.S.A. To be had at Depository for 4/2.

PLAY WITH YOUR OWN MARBLES. And other stories. By J. J. Wright. Second Edition. To be had at Depository for 9d.

JESUS OF NAZARETH. By Edward Clodd. To be had at Depository for 4/6.

THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF THEODORE PARKER. By P. Dean To be had at Depository for 2/-

STORIES FROM THE LIPS OF THE TEACHER. By O. B. Frothingham. To be had at Depository for 1/6.

YOUNG DAYS. One penny monthly. Last year's volume for 1/2.

All these books were noticed in Number One of "The Chronicle and Index."

Any book or Periodical may be obtained at the Depository, 33 Donegall Street.

The Treasurer of the Unitarian Society begs to acknowledge the following Subscriptions for 1880 :—

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BELFAST, 1*st January*, 1881.

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and

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(ESTABLISHED 1866)

The Proprietor has the great satisfaction to inform visitors from the country and the public generally, that the magnificent building (specially constructed to provide increased accommodation for the business of the Castle Restaurant) is now nearly completed, and will be

Opened During the Present Month,

Unless delayed by the severity of the weather.

Pending the completion and fitting up of the new building, business will be carried on as usual at the well-known premises 31 Castle Lane.

The precise date of opening the new premises will be duly announced in the local news-papers.

GEORGE FISHER,

PROPRIETOR.

THE CASTLE CAFE AND RESTAURANT,

1st *February*, 1881.

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